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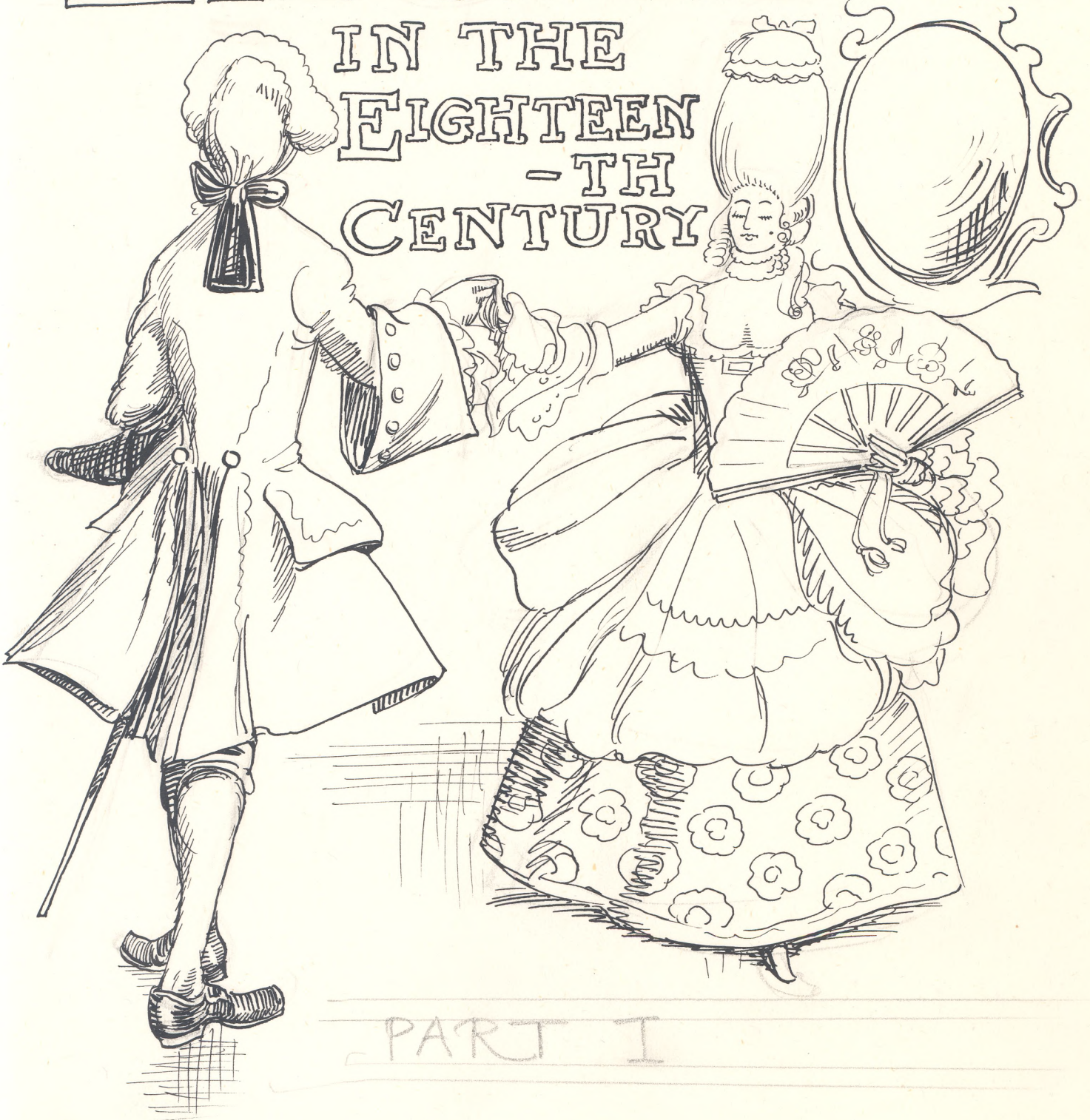
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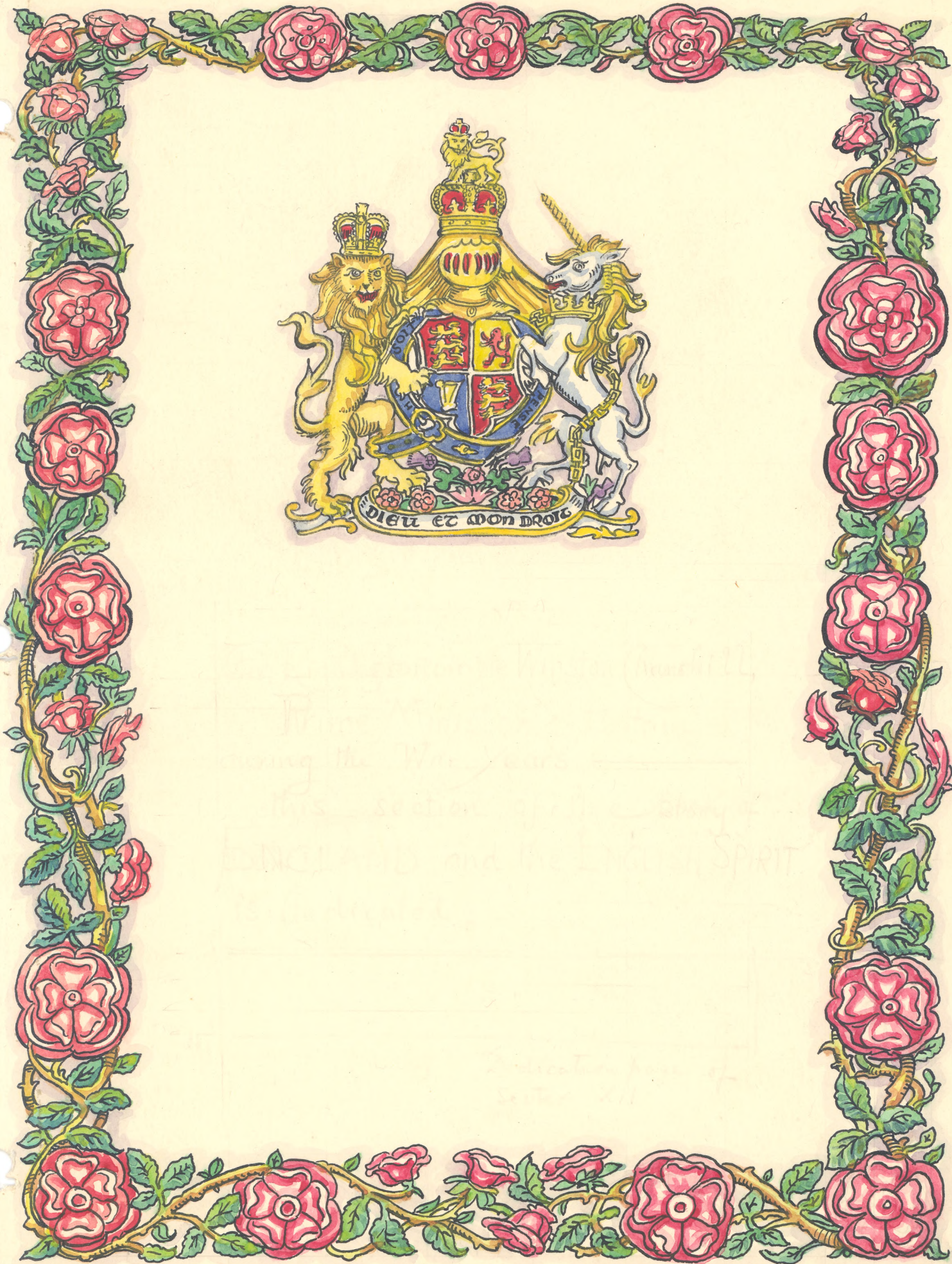
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ENGLAND

IN THE
EIGHTEEN
-TH
CENTURY



PART I



During the War years
his section was charged
with the task of
ENCOURAGING THE SPIRIT

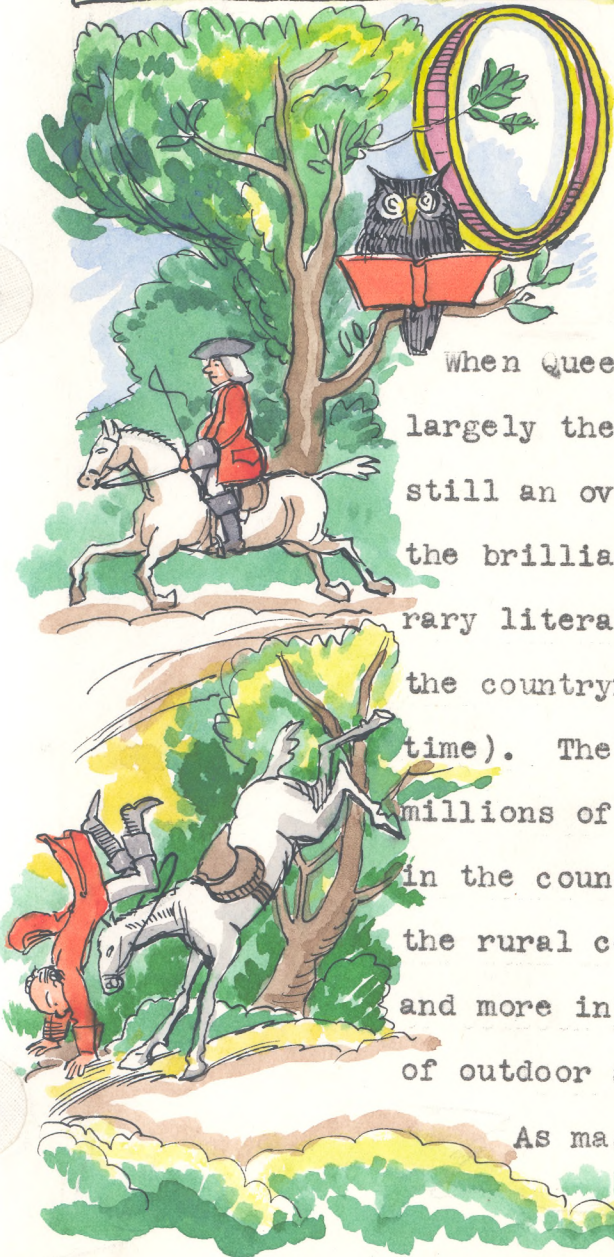
THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY



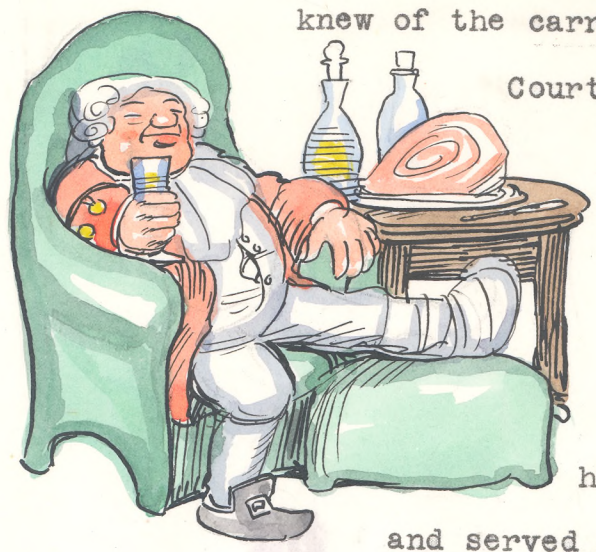
On the morning of Sunday, August 1, 1714, there died at Kensington Palace the last Stuart to rule Great Britain--- Queen Anne--- and with her death the Eighteenth Century began.

When Queen Anne died, England was still very largely the home of a rural people. England was still an overwhelmingly agricultural country, despite the brilliant social life of the capital. (Contemporary literature is full of jokes at the expense of the countryman who came to London for the first time). The nation supported between five and six millions of people, eighty per cent of whom lived in the country villages. The country gentry topped the rural community. The country squire, conservative and more interested in the pleasures of the table and of outdoor sport, was the recognized social leader.

As master of local government, the squire was



ignorant of even the affairs of his own nation (what little he knew of the carryings on of the Restoration



Court did not add to his desire to know more of London and of Westminster). However, although ill-informed and only too commonly possessed of gross tastes, the country squire was proud of his place and

his ancestry, and served as magistrate and military officer as if born to rule! Politically, he was a man of some importance--- a consistent upholder of the Established Church and a Tory.



Addison drew a delightful, if somewhat idealized,



SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY

portrait of the country squire in his well-known character, Sir Roger de Coverley. But the limitations of this type are more realistically revealed in Fielding's portrayal of Squire Western. Closely linked with the gentry were the rural clergy, who formed the bulwark of the conservative spirit of the time. The clergyman was



The Parson

bound to the squire by ties of dependence.

As the country servant of the Church, he was an "obsequious and poorly-paid laborer in the Squire's Vineyard."

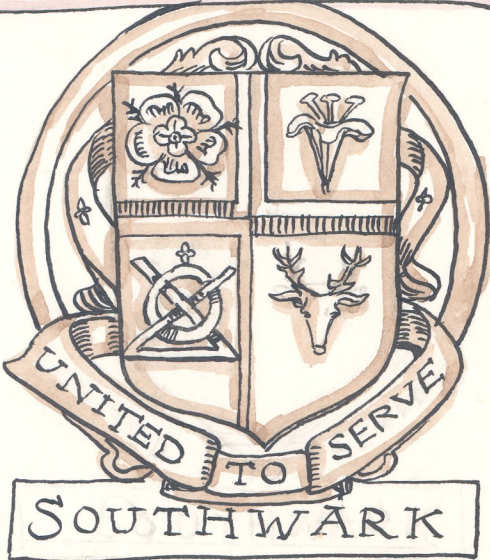
The ill-kept roads prevented the unification of the villages and hamlets and the interchange of goods. As late as 1724, Daniel Defoe in his "Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain", spoke of counties as almost separate countries, so distinct were their customs and dialects. Only pack-horses could use the numerous byways. Travel by wagon or coach was "a perpetual adventure"!



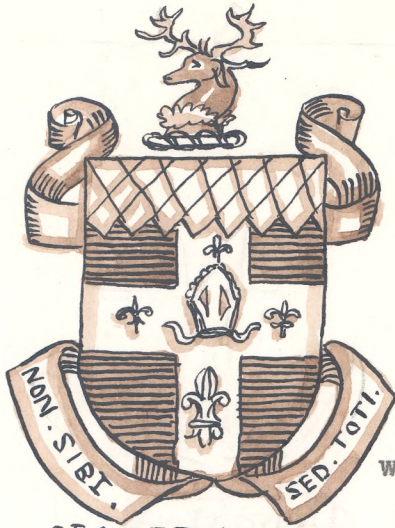
The main arteries of land travel were the North Road to York and into Scotland; the old Watling Street way to Chester; the Road to Harwich and Yarmouth; and the roads to Salisbury and Exeter, and to Canterbury and Dover. Care of certain parts of the main roads was maintained by setting up turn-pikes, or toll-bars, for the collection of revenue to repair ditches and build bridges.



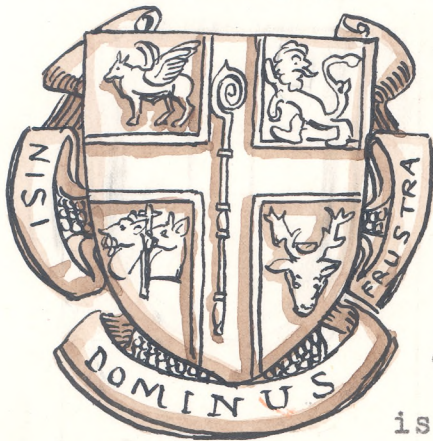
BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF LONDON FROM BELOW THE BRIDGE



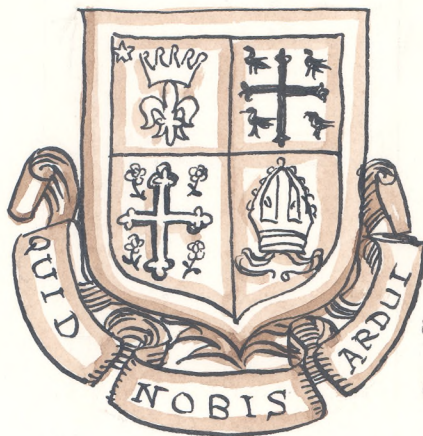
Important changes were made in the physical appearance of London after the Great Fire of 1666. We have already made some reference to the task of rebuilding the city, and to Sir Christopher Wren's part in it. There was a splendid opportunity to build the city anew on a systematic plan, and Sir Christopher was commissioned to draw up such a plan. This can still be seen, with his own Cathedral of St. Paul standing in a free space in the center, with broad streets leading from it, spacious squares at due intervals, wide and convenient quays along the banks of the Thames, and so forth. But, somehow, the well laid plans of the architect



HAMPSTEAD



CHELSEA



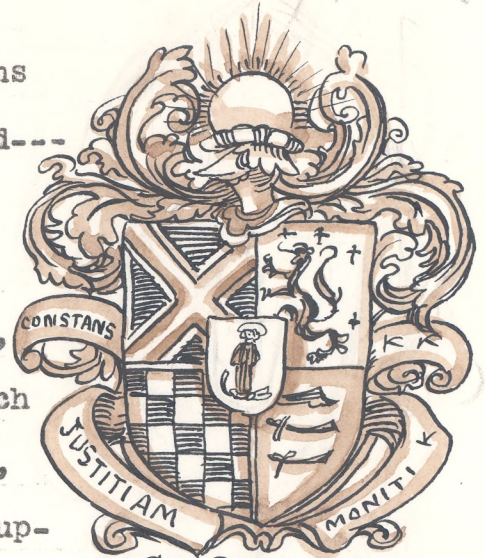
KENSINGTON

"gang aft aglay"---the plans were not strictly enforced---and the opportunity was lost. As a result, the City was hastily re-built, and many conveniences, which were later thought necessary, and which might have been supplied, were completely neglected.

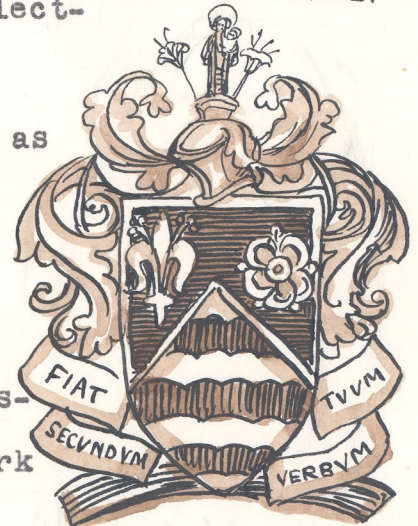
The streets were as narrow and as irregular as before, and no arrangements were made for sewers. The absence of gutters is lamentable! But Sir Christopher was able to put his mark

on the city by replacing the old Gothic buildings that had come down from the Middle Ages with Renaissance structures. His Churches stand as a pleasing monument of his noble endeavors. By the year 1688, the city of London was well-nigh rebuilt,

and, at the beginning of the Eighteenth century, was considered a miracle of size and grandeur.



St. PANCRAS.



MARYLEBONE



SHOREDITCH

LONDON in the EIGHTEENTH CENTURY



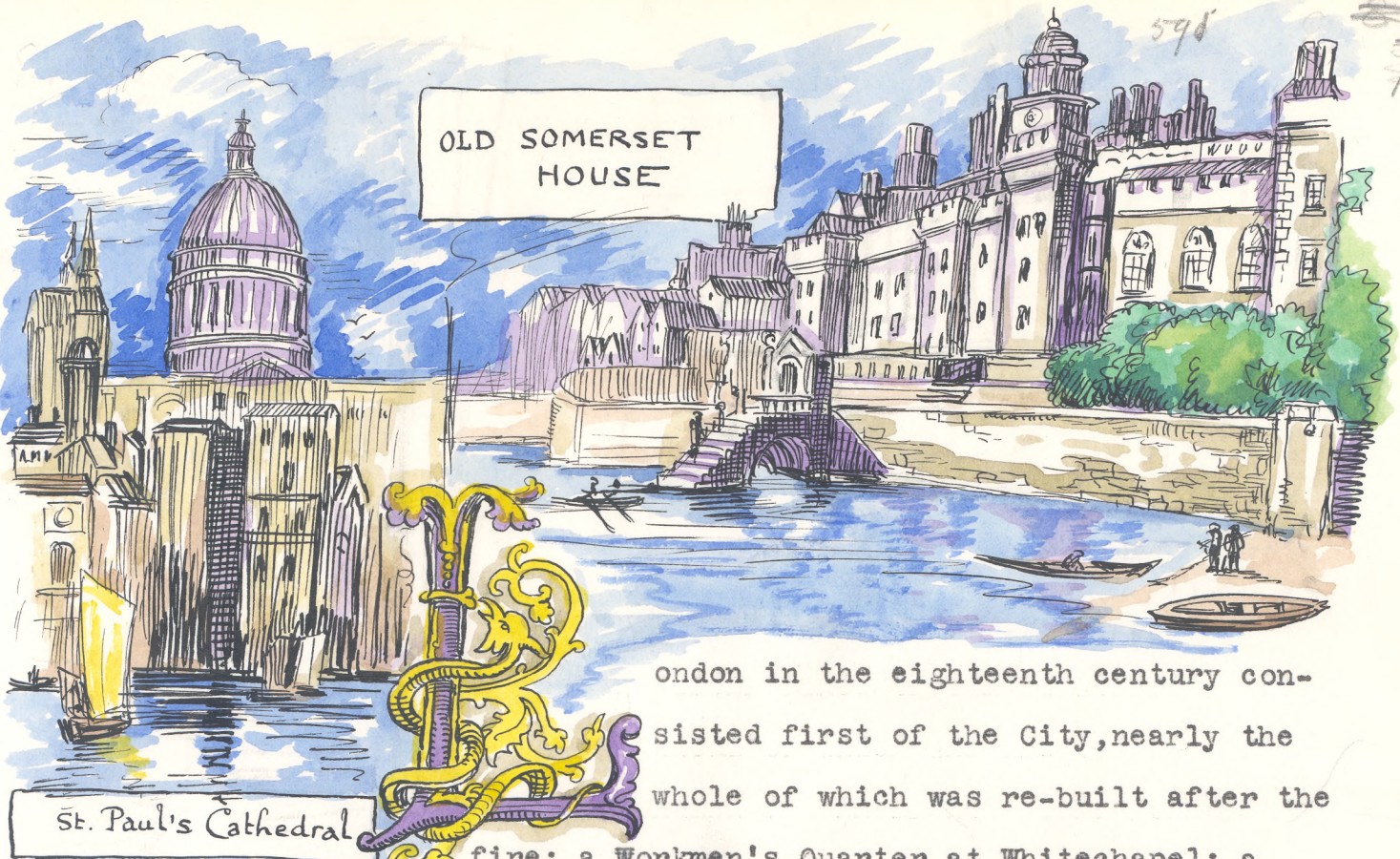
SKETCH MAP SHOWING POSITION OF BOROUGHS.

I

t would be hard to exaggerate the importance of London in the Eighteenth century. In life and letters, in politics and commerce, the city played a most important part in the nation. After thirty years of experience as a citizen of the great metropolis, Dr. Samuel Johnson expressed his deep affection for London in the declaration that "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life!" The average Eighteenth century Englishman found in London (as Dorothy George has expressed it) "the only great urban community in the kingdom; the only place where town life was cut off from country life---where the country visitor was like a being from another world". Georgian London was a collection of different districts and different worlds, as the map on this page shows.

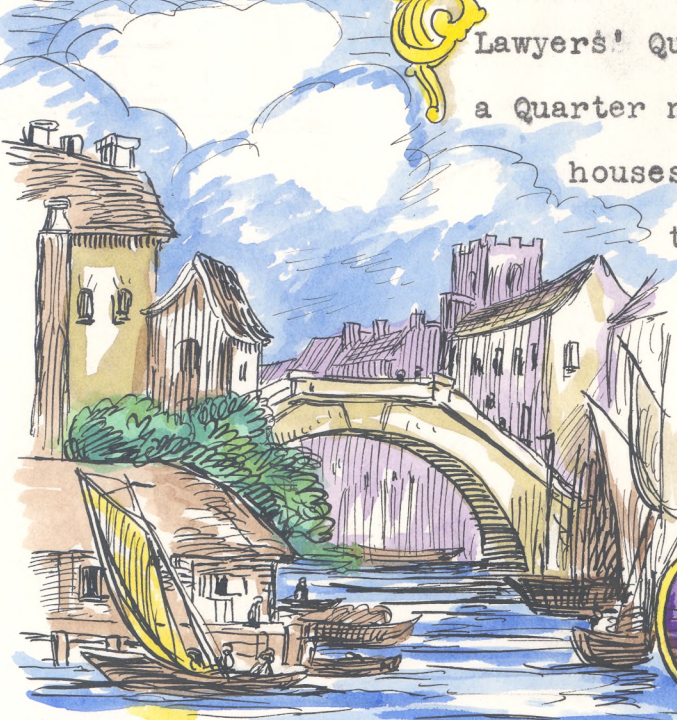
Greg + Magog

OLD SOMERSET HOUSE



St. Paul's Cathedral

London in the eighteenth century consisted first of the City, nearly the whole of which was re-built after the fire; a Workmen's Quarter at Whitechapel; a Lawyers' Quarter from Gray's Inn to the Temple; a Quarter north of the Strand occupied by coffee-houses, taverns, theaters, a great market, and the people belonging to these places; an aristocratic Quarter lying east of Hyde Park and Westminster with its Houses of Parliament, its Abbey, and the worst slums in the whole city.



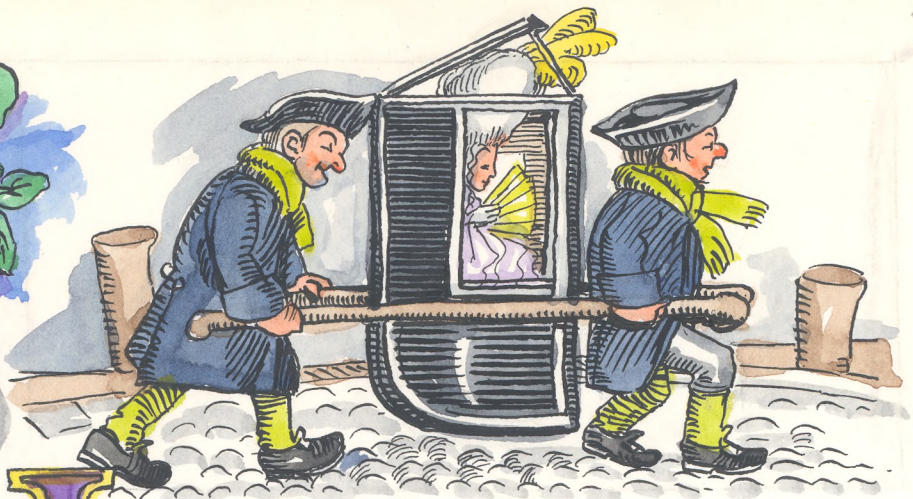
FLEET BRIDGE



On the other side of the River, between London Bridge and St. George's, was a busy High Street, with streets to right and left; houses that lined the river-bank from Paris Gardens to Rotherhithe; and streets at the back of St. Thomas's and Guy's. Lambeth Marsh lay in open fields and gardens. Rotherhithe Marsh lay equally open in meadows and ditches, gardens and ponds.



JOHN GAY
after the portrait by Kneller



In the company of John Gay, the intimate friend of Alexander Pope and Jonathan Swift, and well known among the men about town, it may be of considerable value to us to take a stroll through the County of London and observe the contemporary scene. In his famous "Trivia", Gay supplies us with all sorts of information on

Water Cresses
Come, buy
my Water
Cresses !

How to walk clean by day and safe by night,
How jostling crowds with prudence to decline,
When to assert the wall and when resign....

We are at once attracted by the street-cries of London. These cries, which awaken the citizen early in the morning and go all day long, represent the various trades, some of which we shall illustrate on this and the next page.

The paving of the streets has been a long time getting itself mended. Posts protect the pathway, and chairmen are forbidden to carry their chairs



"BUY A RABBET, A RABBET"



behind the posts. There are no kerbs; in the middle of the street runs a gutter, sometimes foul, and sometimes a succession of stagnant and noisome puddles; sometimes a rapid stream, the splashing of which, when a cart or carriage passes by, is fatal to silk stockings and neatly polished shoes. Gay warns the citizen



THE LONDON GAZETTE 1711.

against such a street:

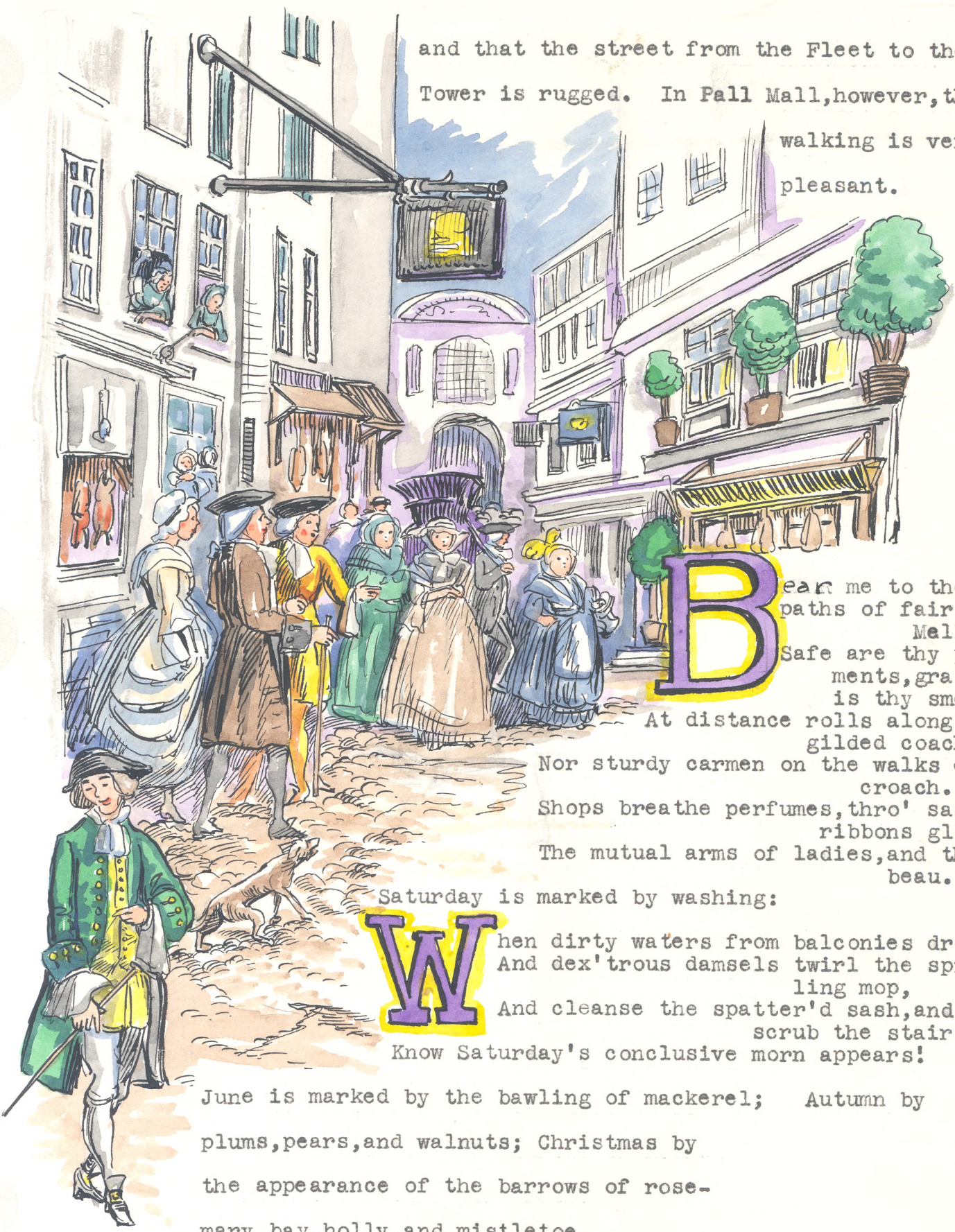
Never stray
Where no ranged posts defend the rugged way.
Here laden carts with thundering wagons meet,
Wheels clash with wheels and bar the narrow street.
If clothed in black, you tread the busy town,
Or if distinguished by the rev'rend gown,
Three trades avoid: Oft in the mingling press
The barber's apron soils the sable dress;
Shun the perfumer's touch with cautious eye,
Nor let the baker's step advance too nigh.

The author of "Trivia" also informs us that narrow and difficult is the way along Watling Street; that broad is the pavement of Cheapside;

OLD CLOAKS, SUITS OR COATS



and that the street from the Fleet to the Tower is rugged. In Pall Mall, however, the walking is very pleasant.



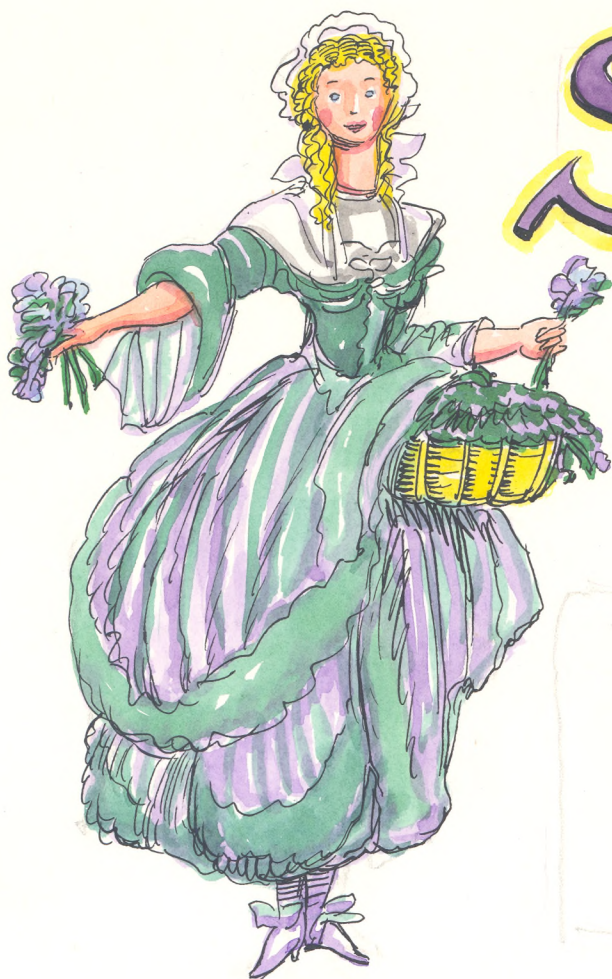
Bear me to the paths of fair Pall Mell,
Safe are thy pavements, grateful is thy smell;
At distance rolls along the gilded coach,
Nor sturdy carmen on the walks encroach.
Shops breathe perfumes, thro' sashes ribbons glow,
The mutual arms of ladies, and the beau.

Saturday is marked by washing:

When dirty waters from balconies drop,
And dex'trous damsels twirl the sprinkling mop,
And cleanse the spatter'd sash, and scrub the stairs;
Know Saturday's conclusive morn appears!

June is marked by the bawling of mackerel; Autumn by plums, pears, and walnuts; Christmas by the appearance of the barrows of rosemary, bay, holly, and mistletoe.

Gay proceeds to describe the markets in the



various sections of the city:

S

hall the large mutton smoke upon your boards? Such, Newgate's copious market best affords. Wouldst thou with mighty beef augment thy meal? Seek Leadenhall; St. James' sends thee veal. Thames Street gives cheeses; Covent Garden fruits; Moorfields old books; and Monmouth Street old suits. Hence mayst thou well supply the wants of life, Support thy family, and clothe thy wife!

Night approaches. Beware of the narrow streets between St Clement's Church and the Strand.



BUY A RAT-TRAP, A RAT-TRAP,

The streets after dark are full of dangers. Beware of swaggering bullies and pick-pockets. Not the least of the perils are the wiles and snares of the ladies of Drury



Lane. Says Gay:



Tis she who nightly strolls with saunt'ring pace, No stubborn stays her yielding shape embrace; Beneath the lamp her tawdry ribbons glare, The new scour'd manteau, and the slattern air. With flattering sounds she soothes the cred'lous ear, "My noble captain! charmer! love! my dear!" Her fan will pat thy cheek; these snares disdain, Nor gaze behind thee when she turns again.

From these notes and observations in "Trivia",

which are, of course, exaggerated after the poetic manner, it is possible to reconstruct a good part of the London scene.

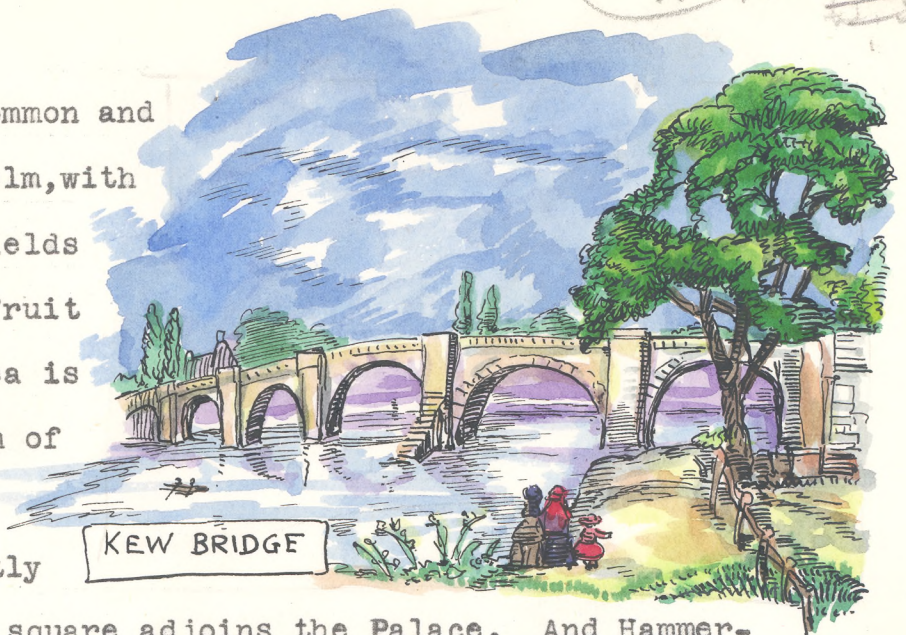


PART OF OLD LONDON BRIDGE

There is much variety in the vicinity of the city. Chelsea is a pleas-

597. ~~12~~ ~~12~~

-ant suburb, boasting a common and a pond near the Queen's elm, with a ferry over to the hayfields of Battersea, famous for fruit gardens. Beyond Battersea is breezy Clapham, the asylum of Samuel Pepys in his age.



KEW BRIDGE

Kensington is a courtly

place, whose fine new square adjoins the Palace. And Hammer-

smith and Wimbledon are still country prospects with mansions and a famous palace.



BATTERSEA

Richmond and its park are smiling neighbors of the City. Kew is trim with villas and gay with boats of passage.

Hampton wears its royal mein.

The west of London proper commences with Hyde Park Corner and culminates in Soho. Then there is the Mall, the high spot for rendezvous, which



RICHMOND BRIDGE

3577
1698

THE ROYAL PALACE OF HAMPTON COURT 1690



"frames the twinkling flutter of fashion".

These observations in passing serve as a sort of background for the opening of the new century in England. They may also help as a setting for the beginning of a new dynasty---the House of Hanover.



"La Reine est Morte, Vive Le Roi !"

The White Rose of the Stuarts has been replaced by the White Horse of the House of Hanover.



In the Park